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Title: Increase in the prices of essential commodities due to hike in the prices of petroleum products.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY): Sir, as you know, the repeated hike in the price of the petroleum products caused by this Government is causing havoc to the life of the common people. The prices of all other essential commodities are having a cascading effect particularly the hike in the diesel prices. Agriculturists are also suffering. We demand a full fledged discussion on it because we, on behalf of the Left Parties, have already submitted to the Government one alternative proposal to set up an Oil Stabilization Fund in the backdrop of the continued rise in the international price of oil. How is the Government responding to that alternative proposal that we have made? The Government has already collected huge amount of duty that can be used for this Stabilization Fund to protect the interests of the common man. We demand a full fledged discussion on the price situation particularly the hike in the price of petroleum products which is causing havoc to the common people of this country.